Mike Bosch was born in 1926 and licenced as ZS2FM in 1948.

Mike read about the reception of BBC TV in Cape Town by Henry Rieder ZS1P (†) in 1949. Mike built a TV receiver around a VCR-97 war surplus radar cathode ray tube and managed to pick up the TV sound on 41.5 MHz from Alexandra Palace, London. As the solar cycle declined, the receiver was stripped to build an oscilloscope, but fortunately the VHF converter remained intact. In 1956, the MUF rose above 45 MHz again and the oscilloscope was turned back into a TV receiver with the addition of a sawtooth oscillator and a video IF stage connected to the VHF converter. A few weeks later, he picked up his first TV picture from the BBC on this home-brew TV receiver. That event was the spark that started a lifelong love affair with VHF and above, especially the 50 MHz band. He wrote his first article for RadioZS, entitled “See TV on your oscilloscope”, in 1959. He is a prolific author, sharing his experiences and passion with a wide audience.

In 1962, while resident in East London, Mike and Arthur “Windy” Gale ZS2CK constructed two microwave transceivers around 723A/B klystrons and cinema arc-lamp mirrors as parabolic reflectors. They established the first amateur microwave record in South Africa on 10 GHz (3 cm) over a distance of 500 m on 29 November 1962. When they had extended the range to 2 km, they announced it in RadioZS. During this time he also started his first experiments on 50 and 144 MHz, and also developed an interest in radio astronomy.

Mike made many DX contacts on 50 MHz using F2, Sporadic-E and Meteor Scatter and set many distance records in the process while making an in depth study of VHF propagation. He also conducted a series of Meteor Burst experiments with Dave Larsen ZS6DN (†).

Over the years, Mike wrote many articles and columns for RadioZS to motivate radio amateurs, especially the younger generation, to become active on VHF and UHF.

For at least three decades, Mike has maintained the South African distance records table for VHF and above. These records continue to provide a strong incentive for technological innovation and excellence.

He also founded the PEARS National VHF/UHF Contest at the turn of the century.